

Riots-1934

## Race Riot Raging In Maryland Town

PRINCESS ANNE, MD., Sept. 8.—(AP)

—A race riot between 200 white men and from four to five hundred negroes was raging on the streets of this small town on the eastern shore of Maryland at midnight tonight. The entire negro population was being driven from the town.

The trouble started when a negro allegedly cursed a white man on the street and the two engaged in a fist fight.

The white man, whose name could not be immediately learned, badly beat the negro and drove him from the streets.

A few minutes later the white man started gathering his friends and, rapidly increasing as it marched down the streets, the crowd started for negro town.

Forcing their way into a negro restaurant at the north end of the town the men found the already beaten negro dragged him out, and began beating him again.

Screaming and with blood on some of them, the negroes fled in all directions—on foot and in automobiles, the white mob after them with fists, clubs, bricks, and knives. Some of the negroes fought back, but soon fled.

The small force of three police, headed by Chief Marion Austin, was powerless.

It was learned that word had been sent to Salisbury, 15 miles to the north for State police.

How many were injured and whether any were killed was not immediately determined.

## Princess Anne Gang Attacks Townpeople

Whites with Alleged "Official" Permission Assault Two on Main Street.

FRACAS STARTS NEAR  
NEWEST BEER GARDEN

Citizens Make Plea for  
More Law and Order.

By CLARENCE MITCHELL  
Staff Correspondent

PRINCESS ANNE, Md.—Flames of race antagonism that have been smoldering in Princess Anne since the lynching of George

Armwood, last October, burst into fever heat on Saturday night when a gang of white hoodlums attacked several colored citizens.

Reports circulated to the effect that the entire colored population was being driven from town on Saturday night, were denied by colored residents who would talk to AFRO reporters on Monday.

Many of the terror-stricken townsfolk refused to talk for fear of reprisals.

### 200-500 in Mobs

Residents were prone to dismiss the disorder as trivial, despite the report that men, women and children had been sent scurrying in all directions by the enraged whites. Varying reports give the number of whites in the mob from 200 to 500.

The small force of three police-men, headed by Chief Marion Austin, was ignored as if it did not exist.

The town was in a turmoil for more than an hour on Saturday night, and outside help was summoned by Sheriff Luther Daugherty as officials recalled the burning of George Armwood in the courthouse square during an outbreak last October.

### Pastor Saw Nothing

The Rev. R. C. Hughes, pastor of the Methodist Church in Princess Anne, declared that he had no information about such a thing, when interviewed by the AFRO, and his residence is not two blocks from the place where the trouble is supposed to have started.

Dr. T. H. Kiah, of the Princess Anne Academy, also denied having any knowledge of such a large number of persons engaging in a fight.

He pointed out that such reports were also circulated last year, when persons accused of lynching George Armwood were returned to Princess Anne.

### Printer Saw Everything

A young printer, who lives at Princess Anne, stated that he saw the whole disturbance, and estimated the number of persons in the melee at approximately twenty-five.

He laughed at the story of 300 colored persons' being chased from the town, and declared that there is hardly that many colored people living there.

An undertaker in the town stated that the whole disturbance never got off the main street, and not a single home was entered by persons creating the disorder.

Eye-witnesses charge that during the clean-up effort. The mob, led by a white man named Stacey, attacked Roy Shields, a colored native of the town, and severely beat him with clubs and other weapons.

### Shields Rescued

Shields was rescued from the crowd by officers, according to a witness, but his attackers were not dispersed until one of them had made a speech.

The speech is thought to have centered around recent arrests of colored men on the shore for alleged crimes against white women.

### Turkey Blood Used

In one of these cases, which was that of Sam Jones, several blood-stained garments that were offered as evidence in attempting to prove that he (Jones) was the murderer of a Mrs. Brumbley, were found to have been dipped in turkey blood.

Jones was released, and is now living at his home in Crisfield, Maryland.

Another of these cases is that of James Boland, a former Sunday school teacher, who is accused of having attempted to rape Mrs. Anna Waddy, 65-year-old white woman, last week.

Boland is now in the Baltimore jail, having been spirited there to avoid "trouble." According to some current rumors in the community, Boland is not guilty but he was trying to collect \$118 in salary that he said was owed to him by Mrs. Waddy.

Certain white elements, however, have taken these cases as indications of danger signals in the colored community and are said to have been planning such an affair as took place Saturday night.

The trouble is supposed to have started when two colored men engaged in a fight before a new beer tavern on the town's main street.

Whites are alleged to have gathered to witness the battle, but became incensed when one of the contestants either fell or was pushed into their midst.

The two fighters were arrested but released on Monday, according to residents at Princess Anne, for lack of evidence against them.

The crowd is then reported to have been given "permission" by a policeman to clean up the town.

It is charged by some who witnessed the trouble, that this officer is familiarly known as Shaggy.

### Judge Duer on Scene

The work of "cleaning up the town" is said to have started in front of the Washington Hotel on the main street, where sat Judge Robert Duer, who made a speech to lynchers just before the murder of Armwood.

The stories of what happened

Maryland

The colored version is that the mobsters charged Shields, for no reason, and began beating him.

### Cop Needed Aid

Whites assert that Shields had drawn a knife on the officer named Shaggy, and their assistance was solicited by the policeman, who was getting the worst of a tussle for possession of the weapon.

Another man named Wilson is alleged to have been passing in a car at the time, and the militant whites leaped to his running board, smashing him in the face.

### No Whites Arrested

None of the whites were arrested, Saturday, but those that are supposed to have been the leaders had a hearing before the justice of the peace, Tuesday.

Judge Duer was summoned as a witness against the men, and five of them are being charged with inciting a riot. Two of these were released on \$500 bail, while the others are in jail.

The hearing was called at 11 a.m., and by 11:05 the courtroom was crowded with whites, nineteen of whom were witnesses against the alleged rioters. These witnesses were largely drawn from business men of the community.

The general sentiment of the whites, who were not involved in the affair, seemed to be against the accused men, but the two colored men that were attacked on Saturday, failed to testify against them.

An informal protest was made, however, to Sheriff Charles Dryden by a group of leading colored citizens, who urged that steps be taken to prevent further troubles.

These citizens told the sheriff that the town is getting a black eye from recent outbreaks.

At the time, the sheriff stated that he would do all in his power to bring those connected with Saturday night's affair to justice.

Later reports indicate that additional men for the police force on Saturday nights is being sought.



Riots-1934

# NIAGARA FALLS IS RIOT SCENE, MANY INJURED

Coals in Racial Bitterness  
Shoulder After 3,000  
Battle Intensely

## WHITE GIRL INVOLVED

Riot Starts in Meeting Place  
of International Labor  
Defense Group

NIAGARA FALLS, N. Y., Aug. 28.—Police are on guard here for fear that new outbreaks between whites and Negroes will occur after the rioting Monday night.

Three persons were seriously injured and minor injuries received by many others as a result of a free-for-all battle in which more than 3,000 participated. Intermittent clashes have occurred during the week since as a result of the intense feeling which has followed since the rioting.

### Starts At Meeting

The rioting started in an attempt to break up a meeting of the International Labor Defense called to rally workers to the defense of Alphonso Davis, colored, who had been arrested on a charge of attacking a white girl. Several shots were fired, none taking effect, police said.

The angry crowd battled back and forth with great violence smashing windows in homes and the business district. Knives were used viciously, stones rocketed through the air.

Bitter feeling has existed between whites and colored, police authorities said, because recently Negroes were moving into the section around East Falls and Twen-

ty fourth street, largely populated by Polish-Americans.

### Three In Hospital

Walter Korpinski, 45, is in the hospital in a critical condition as the result of a knife wound in the abdomen.

William Fisher, 20, his alleged assailant, also was in the hospital with cuts and possible skull fracture.

Joseph Buckford, 45, was in the hospital with a possible concussion of the brain.

Birmingham, Ala., News  
August 30, 1934

### RACE RIOTS IN THE NORTH

It must have been a shock to the International Labor Defense when it discovered at Niagara Falls this week that racial disorders in America, despite its fiery preachments, are not confined wholly to the South.

More than 3,000 persons joined in a free-for-all scrap in the New York town, with the ill-smelling I. L. D. the crux of the situation, as it has been in so many other unfortunate difficulties.

We have had trouble in the South, and perhaps we will continue to have trouble in the South, but it has been many years since a race riot of such magnitude has occurred in this section. In fact, few parts of the South have ever in their history seen rioting on such a large scale, with the exception of some of the larger cities, including Birmingham and Atlanta.

If it ceased its ranting long enough to study a few facts, the I. L. D. would discover that the racial problem is one of human nature and not of sectionalism. The incident at Niagara Falls demonstrates this in an ample way. We see it again demonstrated when the Northern man, upon coming South, adopts without ado the Southern racial attitude, whatever his former beliefs might have been. He may have difficulty in acclimatizing himself along other lines, but rarely along the racial lines. In the same manner, if the racial problem of the South were lifted bodily and placed upon the North, we might be assured of the speedy development of the Southern attitude in that section; in fact, we doubt seriously whether the North would display the same degree of patience that the South has displayed in trying to work out a peaceable solution of this vexing question.—Tuscaloosa News.

### NEW YORK SUN

AUG 28 1934

## FIGHTING RESUMED IN NIAGARA FALLS

Second Negro in Hospital as  
Result of Disorders.

NIAGARA FALLS, N. Y., Aug. 28.—A second Negro was seriously injured and many others suffered minor wounds tonight when rioting broke out among Negroes and whites on the East Side. One man was in a critical condition. Several shots were fired, none taking effect, according to the police.

Walter Korpinski, 45 years old, is in Memorial Hospital with slight wound in the abdomen. His alleged assailant, William Fisher, 30, a Negro, also is in the hospital with cuts and possible skull fracture.

Another Negro took shelter in a store when a crowd milled about and him as he was awaiting a trolley. The police dispersed the fighting, is in the same hospital with possible concussion.

Several arrests for not obeying orders to move on were reported after shotgun slugs, fired from an automobile, had peppered a house near the center of Monday night's trouble.

Walter Korpinski, a white Twenty-fourth Street, largely populated by Polish-Americans. The rioting started when an attempt was made to break up a meeting of the International Labor Defense called to rally workers to the aid of Alphonso Davis, a Negro, who had been arrested on a charge of attacking a white girl. Soon more than 3,000 persons were engaged in the fighting, the police said.

The same report was given for William Fisher, a Negro, the alleged assailant of the grocer, who suffered a fracture of the skull and many cuts when beaten by whites. He is under police guard in the hospital.

The first outbreak occurred when hecklers broke into a meeting of a group organizing support for a Negro accused of attacking a white girl. The police also said that whites resented the settlement of their section by Negroes.

### New York Times

AUG 28 1934

## 8,000 IN RACE RIOT AT NIAGARA FALLS

Many Hurt, Three Seriously,  
as Polish-Americans, in Own  
Quarter, Fight Negroes.

### POLICE DISPERSE THROUG

Broken Windows Left in Wake  
of Clash Started at Mass  
Meeting of Labor Defense.

NIAGARA FALLS, N. Y., Aug. 27 (A.P.).—At least three persons were

seriously injured and many others attempt was made to break up a meeting of the International Labor Defense called to rally workers to the aid of Alphonso Davis, Negro, who had been arrested on a charge of attacking a white girl.

Several shots were fired, none taking effect, according to police. Windows in many stores and homes in the district were broken and the authorities reported considerable other property damage.

The police said there had been ill feeling for some time between the Negroes and whites because the former were moving into the section around East Falls and Twenty-fourth Street, largely populated by Polish-Americans.

### New York World Telegram

AUG 28 1934

## NIAGARA FEARS NEW RACE RIOT

Many Hurt as 3,000 Fight at  
Rally for Negro Held  
for Assault.

By the Associated Press.

NIAGARA FALLS, N. Y., Aug. 28.—Feeling was tense here today as police guarded against a renewal of the rioting between Negroes and whites in which three persons were seriously injured last night and many suffered minor wounds. The authorities expressed fear that there might be a new outbreak.

More than 3,000 engaged in the free-for-all, which started when an attempt was made to break up a meeting of the International Labor Defense called to rally workers to the aid of Alphonso Davis, Negro, who had been arrested on a charge of attacking a white girl.

Several shots were fired, none taking effect. Windows in stores and homes were broken.

The police said there had been ill feeling between the Negroes and whites because the former were moving into the section around East Falls and 24th St., populated largely by Polish-Americans.

### New York Evening Post

AUG 28 1934

## NIAGARA IS TENSE AFTER RACE RIOTS

Police Guard Against Renewal  
of Brawl in Which 3,000  
Engaged

NIAGARA FALLS, N. S., Aug. 28 (A.P.).—Feeling was tense here today as police guarded against a renewal of the rioting between Negroes and whites in which three persons were seriously injured last night and many others suffered minor wounds. The authorities expressed fear that there might be a new outbreak, but the East Side was quiet after intermittent clashes during most of the night.

### Three Thousand Riot

More than 3,000 engaged in the free-for-all, which started when an



# Rejects Red Help Niagara Falls Asks for NAACP

As in Scottsboro Case, Polish Girl Can't Identify Alleged Rapist Until Cops Help.

(Special to the AFRO)

NIAGARA FALLS, N.Y. — In an effort to see that Alphonso Davis, accused of attacking a Polish girl in a park, will get a fair chance to prove his innocence, Niagara Falls citizens are seeking the aid of the Buffalo branch of the N.A.A.C.P., under the direction of Julian D. Evans, attorney.

J. M. Pollard, Sr., director of the Niagara Falls Community Center, has asked Mr. Evans if he will cooperate in that respect, as well as help to establish a branch of the association in Niagara Falls.

## Approached by Reds

Mr. Pollard asserts that he has been approached by representatives of the International Labor Defense, who offer their assistance in legal advice and counsel if he can get cooperation from the people.

Nevertheless, their offer was rejected, as there are few colored Communists here and the leaders feel that such a step would arouse unnecessary agitation, retarding the progress of Davis's expected release.

## Polish Couple's Story

According to the story of Helen Lachut and Stanley Wojcik, both white, they were dancing in the Sunset Inn, Niagara Falls, on the night of the attack and then went to an adjacent park to get some water. They said two colored men approached them in the moonlit park and unnoticed by another couple nearby, one grabbed Stanley by the coat, holding him while the other raped Helen.

Then, as the other held Stanley's coat, the Polish couple charge, Helen was again abused. Their testimony is holding Davis for trial, with bail set at \$50,000 property or \$25,000 cash.

As in the case of the accusers of the Scottsboro Boys, the girl at first was unable to identify the prisoner as her assailant, but after police persuasion, finally did so.

It is believed by many local citizens that Davis's alibi, with the help of the N.A.A.C.P., will win his release.

# All Is Quiet at Niagara Falls Following Riot

City Advised that Citizens

Will Defend Themselves if Not Protected.

GUNS AND AMUNITION

PURCHASED QUICKLY

Trouble Started at Meeting of Communists.

(Special to the AFRO)

NIAGARA FALLS, N.Y.—After a week of rioting and minor alterations, the feeling of inter-racial misunderstanding, between colored and the Polish residents has subsided to its normal state.

The first indications of a riot appeared Monday night of last week, when two men were seriously injured and a few others hurt in a free-for-all fight which swept the East Falls and Twenty-fourth Streets section of Niagara Falls.

The riot developed from ill-feeling East side and was precipitated by efforts of the International Labor Defense to hold a mass meeting in a vacant lot at East Falls and Twenty-fourth Streets, in the interest of Alphonso Davis, 23, of Mackenna Avenue, arrested on a charge of having attempted to attack a young Polish girl.

## ILD Meeting Assailed

As a youth, the first speaker, mounted the improvised platform to protest the alleged frame-up, a muttering crowd of 3,000 surged forward. Rotten tomatoes, bricks, and stones were hurled against the platform.

The lone policeman on duty tactfully withdrew the speaker and a young white woman, Celia Stone, warning them not to return or attempt to speak.

With jeers, the crowd turned on William Fisher, 30, of 209 Eleventh Street, who fled along East Falls Street and into a blind alley.

Walter Korpinski, white, who runs a grocery store on East Falls Street, saw Fisher run into the alley and dashed after him. When the crowd arrived they found the grocer lying unconscious in the alley, suffering from knife wounds, and Fisher fleeing along the street.

## Youth Beaten

After a chase of ten blocks, Fisher was overtaken and beaten into unconsciousness. As cries of "lynch him" were repeated, policemen commandeered the ambulance sent for Korpinski, rescued Fisher at gun-point, and took him to Memorial Hospital, where the wounded grocer had meanwhile arrived in an automobile.

In the general riot that followed the Fisher incident, a score of colored people and Poles were injured, as dozens of skirmishes and fights took place in side streets and alleys.

## Riot Renewed

Tuesday, a man waiting for a street-car was spotted by a cruising gang of whites, and chased into a drug store, where police rescued him. That evening, after a day of excitement, during which rocks were thrown intermittently, shot-gun slugs, fired from a speeding car into Parker's Smoke Shop at 627 Erie Avenue, injured James T. Pride, 625 Erie Avenue, who was removed to the hospital for treatment of head wounds.

During the week, two signs, one reading "Hang Alphonso Davis" and the other, "N—", were posted in public view, and after twice being ordered down by the police, were abandoned.

## Ammunition Purchased

Saturday night, rumors spread that another attack was planned by a group of whites along Erie Avenue, but nothing occurred. Nevertheless, citizens were well prepared to meet any disturbances, having purchased guns and ammunition immediately following the first outbreak.

Tuesday, a committee of representative citizens conferred with William D. Robbins, city manager, and James A. Curry, chief of police, and informed them that if ample protection were not provided by the city, they would take the matter into their own hands.

Immediately, two police squadrons were sent into the riot area to maintain peace. The committee was composed of J. M. Pollard, Sr., the Rev. A. B. Washington, the Rev. Harvey A. Gault, the Rev. Harry C. Thomas, and William McDonald.

SCORES ARE INJURED IN BLOODY RACE RIOT

Poles And Negroes Use Sticks, Knives and Guns

By United Press.

NIAGARA FALLS, N. Y., Aug. 28 —Racial riots broke out in Niagara Falls during the night with Poles battling negroes. Sticks and rocks were thrown wildly and several gunshots reportedly were fired.

Three were taken to hospitals. One, Walter Korpinski, 45, grocery proprietor, was not expected to live. He was suffering from an ugly knife wound

across his stomach.

The riots followed the arrest of Alphonso Davis, negro, on a charge of attacking a Polish girl, and attempts by negroes to invade the Polish section to hold a street meeting, sponsored by the International Labor Defense.

# BEATING OF NEGRO STARTS I. R. T. RIOT

500 Passengers Protest Blackjacking of Man Over a Nickel

Five hundred passengers took a hand today in protesting against the blackjacking of a young Negro husband by a special officer on the I. R. T. subway at Times Square.

The crowd's protests became more heated as the special officer, Thomas Martin, began wielding both revolver and blackjack—all over a disputed nickel.

Five I. R. T. special policemen joined the fight. Eight radio cars and the detectives' gun squad were required to quell the riot.

## Arrested After Beating

The Negro was Allen Russell, thirty-four, of 115 West 19th Street. He was treated by Dr. Milano of Flower Hospital, then locked up for disorderly conduct.

Martin, the subway officer, who drew blackjack and pistol, was not arrested.

Russell and his wife, with Hazel Goldsberg, a sister-in-law, and John Talley, had passed through the turnstile to the subway. Suddenly the special officer began yelling at them. He said the Russells had passed through on the same nickel.

## Shows Him Change

"Go on back!" he shouted. "Pay your fare!"

"I paid it," Russell insisted. "I got five nickels at the change booth. See, I have only one nickel left."

Martin pushed the Negro. Then he pulled out a blackjack. He began beating him.

Russell grappled with him and wrested the blackjac kaway. Enraged, the subway officer pulled out a revolver. Five other special officers joined in the attack on the Negro.

Then the crowd gathered, protested against the beating the six men were administering to Russell.



Riots - 1934

Pennsylvania

## Philly Rioters Pass Up Italian, Colored; but Wreak Vengeance on Jewish Shops

PHILADELPHIA. — As if somebody had sprinkled the "blood of deliverance" on all but Jewish business places, in the riot area in North Philadelphia, Wednesday night, none of the many colored, Italian, Nordic and Greek places of business suffered the rioters' wrath, a check-up showed.

Several explanations have been given for the show of feelings against the Hebrew places. One was that there has developed a sharp competition between the Jewish and colored business operators.

### Cutthroat Methods Used

In one block of Ridge Avenue, an AFRO-AMERICAN reporter learned, there is such sharp competition between some of the colored and Jewish merchants, that price wars have developed at times to cutthroat methods. Some of the colored merchants say that all of the Jewish merchants of the section would cooperate to undersell the colored competitor.

Despite this, however, it is said, some of the colored business men have been able to hold their own, even in the market, grocery and produce fields.

Another explanation, projected by some of those discussing the tense situation in this section, is that some of the Italian merchants have systematically striven to drive a wedge between the colored consumer and the Jewish merchant in their own behalf.

### Short Weight Charged

Consumers also say that they have to be always on the alert to prevent being short-weighted.

It was significant that every place damaged, Wednesday night, was operated by a Jewish merchant. The following were among places where windows were smashed:

The Ridge Avenue Cut-Price Bakery Shop, 2109 Ridge Avenue; the Pressman Men's Furnishings Store, 2138 Ridge Avenue; Charles Clere's Shoe Store, 2239 Columbia; the Gross Reliable Cut-Rate Market, 2118 Oxford; Art's Cafe, 22nd and Ridge; the Albright Drug Store, 21st and Oxford; the Harris Cigar Store, 21st and Oxford;

The Angelena Restaurant, Beechwood Street and Montgomery Avenue; Weiss's Hardware

Store, 2133 Oxford; Mealey's Meat Market, Ridge Avenue and Bolton Street; Ginsberg's Store, 2113 Ridge Avenue; Rascusin's Cleaning and Dyeing Establishment, 2117 Oxford Street.

In addition, there were furnishing stores and poultry places, into which bricks were hurled.

Many merchants, anticipating trouble, emptied their show cases and removed stock to places of safety.

## N. Philly Citizens Divided on Views of Race Riot

Comments Reflect Growing Feelings Which Resulted in Outburst Wednesday Night. Police Praised.

PHILADELPHIA. — Various attitudes, from sympathy with the mob to condemnation of the outbreak as an act of hoodlums, were expressed by citizens commenting on the all night rioting, Wednesday.

The consensus of opinion seems to be that the affair was the natural outcome of a growing bad feeling resulting from many causes.

### Is Outspoken

Dr. Virginia M. Alexander, head of a private sanitarium, 2103 Jefferson Street, stated that, as a Quaker she could not condone violence, but was surprised that it had not happened before this.

"I am surprised that we have not had more outbursts," she said. "Almost any excuse was sufficient to bring about this flare-up."

The mob, she added, had her full sympathies. "If I thought it were necessary to throw milk bottles I would throw them too," she said.

The comments of other citizens follow:

D. JOHN P. TURNER, 4N N

Dr. John P. Turner, police physician, 1705 W. Jefferson Street, said: "In my opinion, the recent disturbance in North Philadelphia was caused by a long period of mistreatment of colored customers by small store keepers in that section.

"When the news was spread that a colored woman had been struck and roughly handled by a merchant, all the insults and misunderstandings of the past few years made the colored people see red." The result was that many committed unlawful acts.

"My attitude as a citizen is one of sympathetic tolerance. While I decry lawlessness of any kind, I can understand the rash acts of these people, un-

der the circumstances.

"It is my opinion the police and the court acted sanely and wisely in handling the situation; no clubs were used by the police, no pistols were fired. The court finally discharged the seventy colored persons arrested.

### Courtesy Needed

"I do think there is danger of more serious racial clash in North Philadelphia. To prevent such, I feel the white merchants must be more respectful and courteous to their patrons. I feel the theatres and other places of amusement must discontinue their herding of colored people in the most undesirable sections.

"I further feel that a certain element, especially the youth, must sober down. Many of them are loud, uncouth and disrespectful. Certain sections of North Philadelphia are greatly arrayed by this class of our youth, especially in the early morning hours. Returning home from parties or tap rooms, they make life miserable for those living in the line of their wanderings.

### Violence Not Remedy

"There should be a 'getting together' of the thoughtful citizens of North Philadelphia, with the view of understanding and correcting the distressing problems that now face us. These problems cannot be solved through violence. All suffer as result of such procedure."

### FITZHUGH L. STYLES

Fitzhugh L. Styles, attorney, 2201 W. Columbia Avenue: "I know of no situation that would justify mob law; if we condone it in one instance, then we must accept it in another situation. Citizens should have permitted the law to take its course rather than to resort to rioting and disorder."

### DR. J. AUGUSTUS JOHNSON

Dr. J. Augustus Johnson, physician, 121 W. Oxford Street: "There has been too much of beating of colored women by white merchants in this district. This incident should be a good remedy against the continuance of the practice. Last week's rioting should be helpful; however, I do not favor mob law, nor the attack made on all white folks for the wrong done by one."

### THE REV. J. W. JEFFERSON

The Rev. J. W. Jefferson, pastor of Haven M.E. Church, 23rd and Oxford Streets: "I think that rioting will have good effects, upon the white merchants

as it will teach them to respect their patrons more and treat them decently in the future. It should teach us to patronize our own merchants more. I am unalterably opposed to mob law and regret that colored citizens resorted to rioting and disorder, Wednesday night."

### RAY RODGERS

Ray Rodgers, proprietor of bakery, 1423 N. 22nd Street: "I am willing to be led, but not by mobocracy. I don't think this rioting will produce any good feeling between the races."

### DOROTHY COLEMAN PITTS

Dorothy Coleman Pitts, proprietor of beauty salon, 1527 N. 22nd Street: "I think the rioting last week will help in making the group patronize their own merchants more."

### RUFUS KEENE

Rufus Keene, florist, 2014 Ridge Avenue: "This may serve to teach the white merchants a lesson in how to treat their patrons, but I don't think it will help us economically."

### THE REV. C. J. SLAUGHTER

The Rev. C. J. Slaughter, pastor of West Bethlehem Baptist Church, 23rd and Jefferson Streets: "I think the rioting, Wednesday night, will do good. Women must be respected by these white merchants and treated decently. It proves that we must spend our money where we are appreciated and will get a fair deal. I should not like to feel that we must resort to mob law."

### WILBUR C. BOWERS

Wilbur C. Bowers, mortician, 2217 W. Berks Street: "Mob law is always wrong, but I think this rioting, Wednesday, will do a lot of good. It shows that the citizens of Philadelphia are awakening. These white merchants must not be permitted to mistreat patrons longer and we must patronize colored merchants, who need our support."

### MRS. S. E. HOUSTON

Mrs. S. E. Houston, moving and storage, 1905 North 23rd Street: "I think it shows that there is an awakening consciousness on the part of the colored man to the necessity of protecting his own women. The moral and economic effect will be good. I do not condone mob law. I believe it wrong for both races."

### DR. W. HARRY BANES

Dr. W. Harry Barnes, specialist, 1315 North 15th Street: "All of us who have small children know that many storekeepers cheat them, and the woman sure-ly had sufficient provocation, when she started trouble with all the odds against her."

"None one agrees that mob action is ever just, but in a country where the enlightened white people use it so frequently (recall the California lynching?) it can hardly be expected that the underprivileged should control their emotions, and not 'boil over,' when a man beats up a pregnant woman."

"I think the police and the court did a good piece of work."

"I do not think any more serious racial class possible, but would make the following suggestions as a preventative: a playground in this section, more community and less Communistic activity, and a colored magistrate in this section."



Riots - 1934

Pennsylvania

# GUNS BLAZE AS PEOPLE AVENGE INSULT TO GIRL

An insult to a pretty girl by a group of Italian youths in the heart of East Liberty's notorious and infamous "ghetto" district precipitated a race riot of serious proportions

## "TEAR-GAS" SQUADS PATROL

### E. E. HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Threats of trouble Tuesday spread to the Westinghouse and Peabody High schools and other graded schools where police were assigned after rumors that several groups of students intended to carry the race battle into the school rooms. A large

number of fights were broken up by faculty members of these institutions, students reported.

Carloads of youths of both races patrolled the streets all day Tuesday, but East End police assigned "tear gas" squads to the zone and no serious outbreaks took place.

Last Saturday night, which sent a number of rioters to the hospital, suffering from serious injuries, with scores more under arrest.

Gun-play and bloodshed marked the order of the evening as the warring groups, armed to the teeth, made a murky battleground of Larimer avenue.

Blazing guns sent forth their leaden messengers of death as women screamed and men cursed, as onlookers fled the scene in fear of their lives and as the screeching sirens of police radio cars dumped scores of officers into the district.

#### Young Girl "Insulted"

All week long the East End district had been in a state of seething unrest. On the surface things appeared unruffled. But beneath the calm exterior, the section was tense and watchful.

Saturday night a week ago, pretty Hosea Cooper, of 637 Frankstown avenue, was walking down Larimer avenue with her es-half a square, beaten mercilessly. As she approached, the spot-light of a parked automobile was turned on her in such a way that her figure was silhouetted against the darkness of the night.

When a protest was raised, the girl's escort was chased and she was rudely handled. It is alleged

ing through the window, spattering blood over the room.

Farris, who is alleged to have carried a gun for protection, had been unable to draw it, but he was beaten so severely, that he was powerless to act. Meanwhile, LeRoy Smith, a bystander, came to Farris' rescue and allowed him to climb through the window to temporary safety.

Farris then made his way to the second floor apartment, where Moses Baltimore and his family live.

#### Try to Batter Down Door

Meanwhile, the gang, encouraged as the crowd rapidly increased, secured a 10-foot iron rod and made a vicious attempt to batter the door down. The owner of the downstairs apartment escaped through a back door and called the police.

But before this happened, word of the impending riot had spread like wild-fire through the district. Rumor spread that Farris had been murdered by the Italians.

This was the word which reached the colored district of East Liberty. A determined group of men with automatics and guns flashing, descended upon the district.

And shortly there came the ominous sound of gunfire. Bullets shattered the windows and cleared the streets as the men marched along.

The Larimer Avenue pool room was the first port of call. Bullets made a wreck of the place as the men, placing their shots with deliberate intent, shattered the windows and left several victims groaning in their wake.

#### "You Failed to Act—"

Charles S. Cribbs, white patrolman, who attempted to stop the irresistible tide, was accused of being in league with the Italians.

"You failed to do your duty and you didn't make an arrest after Miss Cooper was beaten up, down here last Saturday night," he was told as the "Home Guard" stripped him of his gun, blackjack and mace and made a hospital case out of him.

Radio patrols were rushed to the scene. And as the cars arrived, the determined group of men who had spread terror throughout the district, vanished silently into the night.

#### Six Are Wounded

In addition to Patrolman Cribbs, the following were injured: JAMES LAZZART, white, shot through stomach and left leg—condition serious. ANTHONY COSTA, white, laceration over left eye.

FRANK DIOVIA, bullet wound in left shoulder.

JOSEPH CELLECI, possible fracture of skull.

Numerous other casualties were reported, but were not treated in the hospitals.

#### Wholesale Arrests

All of those reported injured were white, but when the police started to clean up the district, practically every arrest, with the exception of those injured, were NEGROES.

The whites were released, while the Negroes were either given stiff fines or held for court under heavy bonds.

Many tales of police brutality practiced during the arrests are being told.

Nat Dickerson and Henry Eason, arrested on Washington boulevard while returning from Sharpsburg

Saturday night, told a Courier reporter Monday morning, following their release, that they were taken in a radio car after being picked up and threatened with having their brains blown out, and with having done to them what is usual only done in the South to black men who whipped a white cop.

Accusations are also being hurled concerning alleged "third degree" methods used by the police in an effort to make the suspects admit "anything."



# Lawyer for Men Arrested in Riot Analyzes Case for Afro-American

Mixed Police Force and Better-Headed Officers Prevented Wholesale Bloodshed, Says Raymond Pace Alexander. Rioters Wrecked 42 Stores—Police Did Not Fire a Single Shot.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. Alexander, the attorney who represented the men who were arrested during the riot, was asked by the AFRO-AMERICAN to give his views on the affair. They are herein set forth.

By RAYMOND P. ALEXANDER

PHILADELPHIA. — Rioting. This is an excellent example of all other forms of mob ac-organizing at the wrong time and results from hysteria or mob almost causing a city-wide race psychology, which after careful riot, thereby injuring the relations and sober thought shows itself to be ridiculous, unnecessary, and more difficult for us to get jobs and to make an honest living.

This is exactly what took place in North Philadelphia, last week. The facts in the case were simple and not of the type to have caused a racial outburst.

A peaceful colored citizen, who had been accustomed to dealing at the Jewish store on the corner sent her little girl to buy some sugar and soap. The quantity of sugar was correct, but the brand of soap was incorrect.

The mother took the soap back and explained to the storekeeper that the brand of soap was wrong. The storekeeper got mad and pounced another brand of soap on her. He threw the sugar down on the counter so hard that the bag broke and it ran out, but he would not give her another bag of sugar.

They got into an argument. He tried to push the woman out of the store. His wife and another man delivering bread aided him. There was a "free-for-all" between the woman who was pregnant, and the three other persons. The woman was struck down; she went back home and told her husband and family.

The proper thing to do was to have a warrant issued for the arrest of the three persons involved. Any court that heard these facts would have held all three of these persons for court.

## Power to Organize

At this point, however, the group's power to organize, which should have been used for a different purpose years ago, began to show itself. Instead of organizing into neighborhood consumer groups and purchasing organizations, patronizing only the colored stores that are in the neighborhood,

they continued to patronize the white storekeepers in the neighborhood. This afforded them and their families a good business and caused employment of other white people, when our people are greatly in need of jobs.

PHILADELPHIA. — Rioting. This is an excellent example of all other forms of mob ac-organizing at the wrong time and results from hysteria or mob almost causing a city-wide race psychology, which after careful riot, thereby injuring the relations and sober thought shows itself to be ridiculous, unnecessary, and more difficult for us to get jobs and to make an honest living.

## Growing Feeling

The disturbance was caused very likely by a growing feeling against the white corner storekeeper who has for years made a comfortable living in congested neighborhoods from our people. They receive their money but give them neither work nor opportunities in exchange.

Another factor is that they do not receive courteous or kindly treatment from the storekeeper but, on the contrary, receive impolite, insulting remarks and treatment. I cannot say that our people did not show proper resentment. They at her. He threw the sugar down on the counter so hard that the bag broke and it ran out, but he would not give her another bag of sugar.

She was a peaceful soul and had no right to be attacked in that manner. Citizens' resentment should have gone no further than the boycotting of the store, and the arrest of the three persons involved. That would have placated the case in the hands of the court and ruined the business of the storekeeper.

## 42 Stores Smashed

I think the public ought to know something about the police activities in this case. I do not know whether they realize that forty-two stores operated by Jewish people up and down Twenty-second Street, Ridge Avenue, Oxford Street, and Columbia Avenue were broken into, the windows smashed and much of the goods stolen by a band of boys and men on the night of this assault. This would have sufficed for the officers to have arrested every person acting in a disorderly manner, or sent in a riot call to prevent further vandalism. Notwithstanding the

forty-two stores that had been wrecked, not one single arrest was made in this neighborhood during the disturbance, until one of the wreckers threw a bottle and struck a motorcycle policeman in the face, breaking both of his jaws, and knocking him unconscious.

This was at 2:30 a.m. The wrecking took place from 10 a.m. until 1 a.m., without a single arrest being made. After the assault on the policeman, all men and boys suspected of rioting and in the neighborhood of the affair, were arrested and taken to the police station.

## No Shots Fired

I want the citizens to recognize the further fact that not a shot was fired by the policemen; not a man or boy was struck or beaten. The policemen were orderly, quiet, and rational.

Captain Ellwell, Sergeant Brown, Lieutenant Engle, captain of the plain clothes men, Inspector Burns, and Captain Luckman, of the Motorcycle Squad, made the arrest of the men. They were taken to the station without disorder or assault and battery upon any one. This is certainly different from the experiences that colored people have had in other cities, especially Chicago, East St. Louis and Washington.

A large part of the credit is also due to the fact that Philadelphia has a mixed police force. Such able colored officers as, Robert Tanner, Ira Graham, Robert Fouchée, William Freeman, Norman Tyree, and Firman Hopkins keep racial clashes down, and restore order by virtue of their mere presence and advice.

## All 70 Dismissed

The following morning, after the magistrate had held all seventy of those arrested on the charge of rioting, upon my plea to the crowd to be orderly and their promise to go to their homes, he discharged every one.

Superintendent of Police Le-Strange and Assistant Superintendent James A. Taylor are to be complimented for their broad-minded manner in handling this situation. I do not think there is the slightest danger of any outbreaks or racial clashes in Philadelphia, but one of the ways to insure against further racial discord is for the leaders of the 5000 men and women were incited to take this directly to the people through the mediums of churches, lectures and other means of meeting large numbers.

Our leaders do not take an interest enough in the welfare, troubles and sorrows of the people. The trouble at the bottom is our distressed, economic condition.

Several of them were wounded by Master, Montgomery, Twentieth and Twenty-third Streets, was put virtually under martial law, police found difficulty in putting down the disturbance when hundreds of men scaled roofs and hurled bricks, bottles and other missiles at the cops. Although the section bounded by Master, Montgomery, Twentieth and Twenty-third Streets, was put virtually under martial law, police found difficulty in putting down the disturbance when hundreds of men scaled roofs and hurled bricks, bottles and other missiles at the cops.

## Good Leadership

Fitzhugh L. Styles assisted me in quieting the people and explaining to them their mistakes in congregating on the streets in such a manner. They showed themselves willing to follow our advice. This is the greatest city in the country for opportunities and to develop strong capable leadership.

# White Grocer Flees after Race Riot

Mob Vents Spleen on North Philly Jewish Business Places.

## 72 ARRESTED IN ALL-NIGHT DISTURBANCE

## Magistrate Eberhardt Is Blamed for Race Feelings.

PHILADELPHIA—A race riot which at times assumed dangerous proportions, resulting in the driving of a Jewish grocer from the neighborhood, the smashing of doors and windows in more than a score of Jewish owned stores and the arrest of 72 men and women. During the height of the disturbance, which reached its climax around 3 a.m. Thursday, about 5000 men and women were involved, and practically every white resident had been driven from the streets in the neighborhood of 21st and Master Streets.

## Fight Desperately

More than 300 extra police, dispatched hurriedly on riot calls, augmenting the regular force, fought all night to clear the streets.

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By six o'clock Thursday morning it had been necessary to send a total of 500 police officers to the North Philadelphia section.

## Magistrate Blamed

Although an altercation between an 18-year-old expectant mother, Mrs. Lucille Suber, 275 Master Street, and Edward Morton, 40, white grocer at the southwest corner of 21st and Master Streets, precipitated the trouble, residents of the neighborhood blame Magistrate Eberhardt for the wide range of the racial angles of the conflict took.

Around 1000 o'clock Wednesday morning Mrs. Suber sent a relative to Morton's store to make a purchase of a cake of soap and a half pound of sugar. Morton, she said, failed to fill the order properly, and she sent it back.

When the sugar and soap sent her a second time failed to meet her approval she took it back herself and demanded her money. When he refused, she is said to have slammed the sugar down on the counter and Morton was accused of striking and kicking her.

## White Man Released

Both of them were arrested and at the hearing Magistrate Eberhardt held both Mrs. Suber and Morton for a further hearing, but released the white grocer by allowing him to sign his own bail bond of \$500.

Although in the last stages of expectant motherhood Mrs. Suber was placed in the lockup.

Like wildfire the news of the action of Magistrate Eberhardt spread over the community, and by sundown the smoldering embers of a bad feeling already existing between groups of citizens and Jewish merchants began to burst into flame.

The first repercussion took place when a crowd gathered around the store which Morton operated. He

It is said that the gangs used a unique system by having someone of the general disturbance, was evidenced by the looting which took place. A well known gang of criminals which have made for themselves a notorious reputation as the "Forty Thieves," are thought to have been responsible for much of the general window smashing. Particularly was it believed by police to have been members of this gang.

Wholesale Arrests. As the marauding bands of riot-in the middle of a crowd hurled bricks as they kept him shielded into took place. In these clashes with police, which have made for themselves a notorious reputation as the "Forty Thieves," are thought to have been responsible for much of the general window smashing. Particularly was it believed by police to have been members of this gang.



# Lawyer for Men Arrested in Riot Analyzes Case for Afro

Mixed Police Force and 200 Officers Pre-vented Wholesale Bloodshed, Says Raymond Pace Alexander, Rioters Wrecked 42 Stores—Police Did Not Fire a Single Shot.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. Alexander, the attorney who represented the men who were arrested during the riot, was asked by the AFRO-AMERICAN to give his views on the affair. They are herein set forth.

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which continued the depredations on Thursday night.

#### 1000 at Hearing

More than a thousand men and women milled about Magistrate Eberhardt's court in the 18th and Oxford Streets police station Thursday morning, when the 66 men and two women arrested were given a hearing.

Six officers were stationed at each door and only witnesses and newspaper reporters were admitted. Edward Morton was brought in under heavy guard. Mrs. Suber was too ill to attend, and she had a number of the defendants were represented by Raymond Pace Alexander, attorney.

Morton was held at this Thursday morning hearing under \$500 bail and allowed to sign his own bail bond. Ralph Watkins, 16, Harlin Street, near 23rd, who police said was caught looting a window of two suits, was held under \$600 bail for court.

The rest of the men and women arrested were fined \$10 and costs on disorderly conduct charges.

#### Alexander Protests

Raymond Pace Alexander vigorously protested the fines levied by Magistrate Eberhardt. He demanded that the officers point out any of the men whom they had seen and could swear to doing any damage.

At one time during the hearing of the argument between the lawyer and the magistrate became so heated that Magistrate Eberhardt told Mr. Alexander "go hire a hall."

#### Advices Order

When the news of the action of the magistrate reached the crowd outside of the police station, there was almost a bedlam of boos, hisses and shouts. Several yelled threats of vengeance on Morton.

During this confusion Mr. Alexander mounted the head of the steps and urged the crowd to disperse, stating that nothing would be left undone to secure justice for those being held under the fines.

#### All Released

Faced Thursday with the grave situation and the still rising tide of hatred and feeling engendered by the outcome of the hearing, Superintendent of Police Joseph A. LeStrange and other officials held a hurried conference with Magistrate Eberhardt, and the entire 68 men and women fined \$10 and costs each, were released a short while after the hearing.

The following were among those arrested, fined \$10 and costs, and later released:

Ralph Watkins, 16, 2425 Harlan Street; Willie Green, 27, 2024 Ridge Avenue; Adam Freeman, 29, 1819 N. 22nd Street; James Wilson, 19, 1741 N. 22nd Street; William Jacobs, 17, 2025 Ridge Avenue; Harry Lowry, 17, 2313 Bolton Street; Milton Watson, 17, 1924 N. 20th Street; Warren Fields, 14, 1932 Berks Street; Thomas

Johnson, 24, 1933 N. 22nd Street; Rolez Wahua, 29, 1933 N. 22nd Street; Van Wilford, 22, 1933 N. 22nd Street; Joshway Morris, 24, 1743 N. 23rd Street; Clarence Cottman, 28, 1933 N. 22nd Street; Daniel Adams, 33, 2221 Montgomery Avenue; Sylvester Loest, 21, 2117 Berks Street; Walter Maddox, 42, 1712 Norwood Street; Andrew Hicks, 35, 1938 N. 22nd Street; Ralph Dickson, 35, 1634 Clarion Street;

Robert Smith, 35, Willow Grove, Pa.; Benjamine DeLaw, 29, 1529 N. 22nd Street; Robert Dixon, 22, 1808 N. 22nd Street; Hampton Brooks, 24, 1535 N. 22nd Street; Acil Richardson, 38, 1728 N. 21st Street; Harry Matthews, 25, 2045 N. Woodstock Street; John Parks, 25, 1829 Columbia Avenue; Jesse Edwards, 40, 1827 N. Lambert Street; Albert Melton, 25, 1717 N. 19th Street; Joseph Vickers, 28, 1226 North Street; Russel Vickers, 24, 854 Fields Street; William Lewis, 37, 2328 Rodman Street; Ray Cousins, 29, 2103 Seybert Street; Clifton Fubeches, 24, 1536 N. Garnet Street; Charles Harris, 32, 1734 French Street.

### Race Quell Race Riot In Pittsburgh Suburb

PITTSBURGH, Sept. 16.—(AP)—Police concentrated in the tenderloin of suburban East Liberty tonight where six were injured and 16 arrested in weekend race riots.

The fighting started last night, police said after Icison Faros, 22, a negro, was slashed by a knife and thrown through a window. The officers were told that two men, resenting the youth's attentions to a white girl, attacked him. They said he pulled a revolver but that the weapon failed to discharge.

Fighting broke out in scattered sections of the borough for the remainder of the night and this morning. Two of the injured were wounded by gunfire and are in a Pittsburgh hospital. Several policemen were beaten up and one was disarmed.

By afternoon the police who had been busy speeding from one fight to another, said the outbreak had been quelled. Tonight's guard was against further disorders.

### Riot Store Now Occupied by Group Storekeeper

PHILADELPHIA. — J. Thomas, well-known store-keeper, formerly at Van Pelt Street and Montgomery Avenue, has moved his grocery store to the building at 2148 W. Master Street, formerly occupied by Edward Morton, the alleged attacker of Mrs. Elizabeth Suber, 1314 N. 22nd Street, mother of the riot baby.

Mr. Thomas is one of the most progressive and successful business men in this section. His success on this corner should be a foregone conclusion.

### INSULT STARTS RIOT Six Injured As Result of Battle

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### Riot Mother and Merchant Held in \$1,000 Each

Mrs. Lucille Suber and White Storekeeper Testify Before Magistrate.

WITNESSES SAY BOTH PARTIES WERE IN FIGHT  
Jurist Stops Proceedings to Admire Infant.

PHILADELPHIA. — Another chapter was written on the North Philadelphia riot this week when both Mrs. Lucille Suber and Edward Morton, white, principles in the two-day disturbance, were held under \$1,000 bail each, for court.

Magistrate Roberts, of the 19th and Oxford Streets station, gave this decision after witnesses had told how both Mrs. Suber and Morton, white storekeeper, had engaged in a fight.

#### Admires Baby

An act which attracted attention occurred when Magistrate Roberts held up proceedings to admire Mrs. Suber's baby, which was of premature birth.

Mrs. Suber, 2215 Master Street, walked up to the bar of the court with the month-old baby in her arms.

"What is in the bundle?" the magistrate asked.

Mrs. Suber said it was her baby. The magistrate then leaned over the bar and talked some "baby-talk" to the infant.

#### She Tells Same Story

In her testimony Mrs. Suber

told practically the same story she told at the first hearing. She went into the store, she said, to exchange an article purchased by a child, and when Morton refused to make the exchange she slammed the sugar on the counter, breaking the bag.

Morton became angry, Mrs. Suber continued, and began to push her out of the store, and while he was gripping her right arm, she bit him.

Morton denied he kicked Mrs. Suber, but said that he tried to take hold of her to put her out of the store as she was creating a disturbance.

Mrs. Suber was represented by Mercer Lewis, attorney, who stated in an interview with the AFRO, that he was well pleased in the way Magistrate Roberts disposed of the case, especially in having reputable friends sign their